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TAXES

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, time and time again Members from both sides of the aisle have spoken on the need to create jobs and cut government spending. This is what the American people want, and it is past time for Washington to start listening. We have just a few short weeks to take that message to heart and stop the \$3 trillion tax hike set to take effect on January 1. Our country needs real economic growth—which can't happen if Washington doesn't prevent these tax increases on farmers, ranchers and small businesses. We won't solve our fiscal challenges until we cut spending, stop the growth of government and extend the current tax rates. The sooner we can provide certainty to American businesses, the sooner they can get our economy back on track and start hiring again. Over the next few weeks, we have the chance to do what is right for our economy. Let's make it sooner rather than later.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(Mr. BISHOP of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, starting tomorrow, 31,000 of my constituents, 400,000 New Yorkers and 2 million Americans will begin to lose their unemployment benefits. Before Thanksgiving, 143 Republicans and 11 Democrats voted against extending unemployment insurance. With that vote they said the unemployed mother, or the husband who lost his job to outsourcing are the ones who should shoulder the burden of reducing the national debt.

In the same breath, Republicans call on Congress to pass a tax break for the wealthiest Americans—adding hundreds of billions of dollars to the deficit. Republicans say we can't afford unemployment benefits, but they are alone in their logic. Economists widely agree that extending unemployment benefits does far more to stimulate economic growth than tax breaks for millionaires.

Madam Speaker, as we enter the winter season when home heating, gas and other basic living costs will rise, I ask my colleagues to help those American families who are most in need, not those wealthiest who need it the least.

CONGRATULATING WAYZATA HIGH SCHOOL, MINNESOTA STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Wayzata High

School football team on winning the Minnesota State high school championship this year. Sophomore Chad Underhill ran for a remarkable four touchdowns, leading the top-ranked Trojans to a 31-14 victory over Rosemount. The victory gave Wayzata their fourth State championship.

Wayzata's perfect season included an overtime victory over last year's State champions in the final game of the regular season and a very gutsy victory over Minnetonka, converting a two-point conversion to win the game with no time left on the clock. In the playoffs, the Trojans held their opponents scoreless for 15 straight quarters.

Wayzata's State championship continues an outstanding tradition of football excellence at Wayzata High School. Since the year 2000, Wayzata has now produced an NFL Pro Bowler in running back Marion Barber, a Butkus Award winner in linebacker James Laurinaitis, and four State championships.

Congratulations to the student athletes, the parents, and the coaches at Wayzata High School.

TAXES AND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, we are now in a situation in this country in which we have the greatest disparity between the very wealthiest people and everybody else that we have had in 100 years. Already this year, the top 1 percent of the income earners in this country have earned 24 percent of total income. Despite all of this, our colleagues on the Republican side want to preserve tax cuts for those very, very fortunate people who have more now as a percentage of the American economy than they have ever had. Meanwhile, they're going to deny 2 million Americans an extension of unemployment benefits which every economist agrees is the best way to create economic activity.

The American people rightly wonder whose side their government is on, and the problem, the juxtaposition of these issues that we face this week, the question of tax cuts for the very wealthiest Americans or extending unemployment benefits for those people who are struggling, is a clear delineation of whose side this government is on.

We're on the side of the American people.

PLEDGE TO AMERICA

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, as I sit here and listen to my colleagues across the aisle, I want to remind them that the American people showed on November 2 that they're not buying the class warfare that our friends are still trying

to sell. We're a month away from tax increases that will hit every American taxpayer. The Obama-Pelosi-Reid spending spree that has racked up \$6.1 trillion in Federal spending in just 22 months is about to hand the American people a massive tax increase.

Democrats have majorities in both houses of Congress until January, and there's time for them to do something to stop the \$3.9 trillion tax increase. But so far all we're seeing on the agenda is more spending.

Republicans are ready to work in a bipartisan way to stop these tax increases and to cut spending. But if the President and congressional Democrats don't take action before the end of the year to stop all the tax hikes and cut spending, the new House majority will in January. That's our Pledge to America, and we intend to keep it.

TAX INCREASES LOOM

(Mr. BUTTERFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, 98 percent of American families face a tax increase on January 1, 2011. That's right; 98 percent. Democrats are prepared this week to prevent that from happening. Our recovery demands keeping as much income as possible in the hands of those who need it the most—America's middle class. By extending the middle class tax cuts, we can protect American families and strengthen our economy.

But with a national debt already exceeding \$13 trillion, we simply cannot afford to borrow \$700 billion needed to cut taxes for the 2 percent richest families in America. It is also important to remember that the richest Americans would still receive substantial tax cuts on the first \$250,000 of their income.

This is not class warfare. I urge my colleagues to support permanent tax cuts for America's middle class. Don't hold the tax cuts hostage to help 2 percent of America's families.

FIVE NEW AMERICAN FREEDOMS

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, earlier this morning I joined my congressional staff on a tour of our Capitol. What a wonderful place this is. And if there's any lesson we should learn from our Capitol, from our Nation's history, it is that our freedom is ours for only as long as we can hang onto it. It wasn't that long ago that the Democrats led Americans into five new essential American freedoms.

We are now free from discrimination due to any preexisting medical condition. We're free from cancellation by any insurance corporation just because you get sick. We're free from going broke just because a child has an accident or becomes seriously ill. We're